

Seattle Disability Commission Minutes

May 15th, 2025 - 4pm-6pm

Commissioners: Co-Chair Shelby Dey, JJ Jensen, Bianca Gallegos ; QUORUM MET

Nominated commissioner: Samiya Nasim

Absent commissioner: Kaitlin Skilton

Roll call/Commissioner introductions

“We believe in a world where disability is celebrated as an integral part of human diversity, inclusivity, and equity.” - Stanford Medicine Alliance for Disability Inclusion and Equity (SMADIE)

Meeting called to order at 4:21 p.m.

- Interaction Agreements
- Universal Design includes CART, 22 size font, describe appearance, state your name before you speak, etc.
- Welcome the public.
- Facilitators, share your name, pronouns, and a sentence or two about your message to the commission.

Welcome OCR Staff for Updates and Events

- Flag Raising (LGBTQ Commission) on May 31st at 12 pm at City Hall, celebration after
- Pride Parade: June 29th Sunday begins 11 am, meet on 4th Ave 4 blocks before Westlake, ends at Seattle Center (activities 12 – 8 pm)

Recruitment Updates

- Interviews with Bianca, invite other members of the commission
 - Sebastian has some questions: please respond to email by May 23, 2025
- Resignation update - Thank you Jackie for your service.
 - She hopes to be able to re-join at a later date.

Swag or branded materials available

- Thank you, Shelby, for branded materials: hand sanitizer, water bottles, bag, pens and T-Shirts for outreach events!

Co-Chair Updates

Five-Chair Meeting update by Shelby and Bianca

- Announcement: Immigration & Refugee Commission not meeting, how commissions work with city council and mayor. Issues of housing, need to use disabilities voice on housing issues.
- Coffee meetings more onboarding.
- All 5 commissions: FIFA (housing, human trafficking, same time as pride parade, Monday meeting (Janet will get information out to commissioners)
- All commissioners, including those nominated yet not confirmed, can participate and be involved in outreach and other efforts.

Upcoming meeting with Council Member Saka:

- CM Saka reached out to Co-chairs, wants to meet with Commissions, follow up from presentation. Pending meeting date.

Commission Business

Co-Chair Nominations & Vote by Janet

- Shelby's interim co-chair ending. Grateful for her time and supporting new co-chairs, two vacancies open:
 - Shelby nominated Bianca Gallegos, JJ seconded; **Vote passes for Bianca Gallegos for the co-chair position that ends Jan 2026**
 - Bianca Nominated JJ Jensen, Shelby seconded: **Vote passes for JJ Jensen for the co-chair position that ends Jan 2027.**

June 19th Meeting (city holiday)

Proposal accepted to cancel the meeting and gather informally (non-commission meeting) at Green Lake Community Center (very accessible)

- June 26th, 4pm – 6 pm Bring your own snacks, bring blankets and be ready to enjoy each other's company.
- Create a text thread to include all
- Reminder: It is a social event focused on building relationships outside of the commission work, no commission business.

Reschedule December meeting

The Commission rescheduled the December meeting to December 4th Thurs 4 - 6 pm. Motion made by JJ, seconded by Bianca; role call. **The vote passed to cancel the June meeting due to the Juneteenth Holiday and reschedule our December Meeting to Dec. 4th.**

FIFA Updates by JJ & Bianca

5 co-chair meeting identified the email and contact person will engage with one of the co-chairs of the commission. Bianca will be the commission contact with FIFA. Commissioners need to send a copy of the letter to Sam. There is an interest in 5 co-chairs

Review the “DO IT NOW” timeline events

Look ahead on the calendar of events. Who will take the lead, who will go, who will support?

- **35th Anniversary of ADA Act**
- Stay aware: Capacity to organize Wheelchair Charging Station Ribbon Cutting
- Brainstorm guest speaker for July 17 meeting
 - Holly or Autumn: Janet will explore
 - Speaker honorarium for speakers, JJ will follow up with Shannon to think about possibilities.
 - Shelby and Janet to connect with COS ADA employment

Approve Minutes & Notes

JJ motioned, Shelby second and vote passes to approve April 2025 minutes.

Decision Process Example:

- *“I motion to approve the April ^{minutes}”*
- *“I second”*
- *Any discussion, objections, edits*
- *Roll call*

Guest: Washington Talking Book & Braille Library by JJ

- News at state and federal level cuts in funding. Federal funds cut and legal action require re-enact existing grants.
- Bill on Governor's desk, use court recording fees to fund library among other.
- Notice of last day for employees, June 30th
- Stark reduction of services with up to 50% layoffs. The Seattle Disabilities
- The Commission advocates all federal, state and local elected officials to sustain funding for the Washington Library. The loss of access to services will impact over 9000 people across the state of Washington, the loss of employment and the families impacted. We think of those Washingtonians who depend on access to materials such as brail, audio, or lack of mobility. Library, 19 employees cover whole state (nearly 9,000), run through Postal Office (service prison, elderly, disabled lack of mobility, create braille materials (ballots, books, etc.)

- What kind of advocacy to state or federal level? These commissions advise the mayor and city council can reach out to advocate.
- Scott has a list of all the elected officials at all levels of government with contact information.
- Impact of this service, 9,000 people, families of all employees, prisons
- Does a letter, social media must be voted on webpage, blog page? Should we contact Sebastian or Sage? Can highlight some of these points.
- **Bianca made the motion, JJ seconded this message allowing the co-chairs to share this message:** The Seattle Disabilities Commission advocates to all federal, state and local elected officials to sustain funding for the Washington Talking Book & Braille Library. The loss of access to services will impact over 9000 people across the state of Washington, the loss of employment and the families impacted. We think of those Washingtonians who depend on access to materials such as braille, audio, or access in their homes to these services (through postal system). This will limit production of materials audio, braille with a specific Northwest focus, and access to information about elections.

Closing Comments & Adjournment

- The next meeting will be on July 17, 2025.
- The May 23 email from Sebastian deadline- commissioners will consider emailing their responses to the following questions:
 1. Why did you decide to serve on the commission?
 2. What is your vision for a more equitable and inclusive Seattle?
 3. What have you learned from your time on the commission so far?
 4. What would you like others to know about disability rights?
 5. What would you say to someone who is considering joining the commission?